

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /057 W
-----050876 271446Z /45
O 271415Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6561

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, CO
SUBJ: TURBAY LEADS IN PRELIMINARY RESULTS

1. PARTIAL RETURNS, ABOUT THRITY PERCENT OF BALLOTS CAST, INDICATE THAT CONGRESSIONAL LISTS SUPPORTING JULIO CESAR TURBAY WERE LEADING THOSE OF CARLOS LLERAS BY A COMFORTABLE MARGIN, ABOUT 200,000 VOTES, IN THE ELECTION ON FEBRUARY 26. ABSTENTIONISM APPEARED TO BE VERY HIGH, PROBABLY OVER SIXTY PERCENT. TURBAY CALIMED VICTORY AT 11:30 P.M. ON ELECTION NIGHT WHILE LLERAS' CAMPAIGN MANAGER, AUGUSTO ESPINOSA, CLAIMED THAT CERTAIN RADIO STATIONS HAD SELECTIVELY REPORTED RESULTS FAVORABLE TO TURBAY AND COUNSELED WAITING FOR MORE RETURNS.

2. THE LEADING LIBERAL BOGOTA DAILIES, EL TIEMPO AND EL ESPECTADOR OF FEBRUARY 27, BOTH OF WHICH SUPPORTED LLERAS, RAN TOUGH EDITORIALS ON THE ELECTION, WRITTEN WHEN ONLY THE MOST FRAGMENTARY RETURNS WERE KNOWN, PROBABLY ANTICIPATING A VERY NARROW TURBAY VICTORY. EL TIEMPO REMINDED ITS READERS THAT A LIBERAL PARTY NATIONAL CONVENTION, ACCORDING TO THE SAN CARLOS AGREEMENT, WAS TO CONFIRM THE RESULTS OF THE FEBRUARY 26 ELECTION IN PROCLAIMING THE PARTY'S PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, BASED ON THE OFFICIAL VOTE COUNT. EL TIEMPO WOULD NOT ALLOW ITSELF TO BE STAMPEDED BY INTERESTED PRESS REPORTS. THE EDITORIALIST WENT ON,
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HOWEVER, THAT IF THE RETURNS INDICATED THAT ONE OF THE CANDIDATES HAS CLEAR MARGIN OF VICTORY, IT WOULD REVIEW THIS POSITION. EL ESPECTADOR'S EDITORIAL, TITLED "WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY?", ALLUDED TO A VERY HIGH ABSTENTION RATE, CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT FOR LATE AND INEFFECTIVE ACTION AGAINST ELECTION FRAUD, AND CLOSED BY STATING THAT "NO ONE LEAST OF ALL THE GOVERNMENT, CAN FEEL SATISFIED BY YESTERDAY'S RESULTS. BUT

ESPECIALLY THE GOVERNMENT AND ITS OLYMPIAN PRESIDENT, WHO IS
THE BIG LOSER, ALTHOUGH HIS CANDIDATE MAY HAVE WON."
DREXLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, ELECTION CANDIDATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BOGOTA01810
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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Expiration:
Film Number: D780089-0787
Format: TEL
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780211/aaaaails.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURBAY LEADS IN PRELIMINARY RESULTS
TAGS: PINT, CO, (TURBAY, JULIO CESAR)
To: STATE
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Review Markings:
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